

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

After paragraph [0023], please insert the following:

[0024] Figure 2 shows a cross section through a part of the sump of a dishwasher having a system for filling level recognition according to the present invention. Since the sump forms the lower part of the washing container in which the washing fluid contained in the dishwasher collects, the sump is a particularly suitable location out of the system for filling level recognition in the dishwasher. Figure 1 only shows part of the sump which is embodied in the form of an upper elevation 12. In the drawing, elevation 12 in the sump is surrounded by washing fluid, the fluid level 9 being in the lower area of the sump of the dishwasher.

[0025] A dome 11 is formed in the upper area of the elevation 12 where the walls 22 of the sump, the elevation 12 and the dome 11 are each integrally connected and thus form the wall 22 of the washing container in its lower range. As a result, the interiors of the sump, the elevation 12 and the dome 11 are interconnected and protected from washing fluid which flushes around the dome 11 and the elevation 12. A filling level sensor 4 is located in the interior of the dome 11. The filling level sensor 4 is constructed in the form of a straight rod having an active sensor surface 10 at its opposite ends. During operation of the system for filling level recognition, a certain charge carrier distribution is established at the active sensor surfaces 10 which varies depending on the level 9 of the washing fluid in the dishwasher. The active sensor surfaces 10 of the filling level sensor 4 each adjoin the inside of the wall 22 so that the active sensor surfaces 10 of the filling level sensor 4 are always separated from the washing fluid by the wall 22. In this manner, the filling level sensor 4 is protected from disturbing effects of the washing

fluid and dishwashing residues or detergents contained therein. Respectively, one sensor probe 8 is arranged on the inside wall 22 opposite the active sensor surfaces 10.

[0026] The sensor probes 8 consist of an electrically conducting material so that an electromagnetic field can be formed between the sensor probes 8 and the filling level sensor 4. This electromagnetic field varies depending on the dielectric constant of the medium surrounding the sensor probes 8 and therefore depending on the fluid level 9 of the washing fluid and the dishwasher. As soon as the fluid level 9 of the washing fluid in the dishwasher rises or the washing fluid contacts the sensor probes 8 electrical charge distribution on the filling level sensor 4 or its electrical capacities it varies.

[0027] The filling level sensor 4 is connected to an electronic circuit 6 by an electronic lead 5 which detects and evaluates the variation of the charge distribution in the filling level sensor 4 or the variation of its electrical capacitance. The electronic circuit includes one or more integrated circuits 7 which are specifically programmed to evaluate the signals delivered by the filling level sensor 4. The results of this evaluation is passed to the program control of the dishwasher for use in controlling dishwasher operation.

[0028] The dome 11 is constructed on its upper side in the form of a hanging roof 3 which services to protect the sensor probes 8 from spray water. The spray water protection 3 is used to avoid incorrect measurements of the system for filling level recognition which could be caused by washing fluid spraying on to the sensor probes 8 during washing operation. Therefore, only the actual fluid level 9 of the washing fluid in the dishwasher is determined by the system for filling level recognition.